

***SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD***

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

March 3, 2004

The Honorable Joseph R. Pitts  
16th District, Pennsylvania  
Lancaster County Courthouse  
50 North Duke Street  
Lancaster, PA 17602

**Re: Docket No. AB - 167 (1095X), Consolidated Rail Corporation –  
Abandonment Exemption – in Lancaster and Chester Counties,  
Pennsylvania**

Dear Congressman Pitts:

Thank you for your letter to Mr. Dan King, Director of the Surface Transportation Board's Office of Congressional Affairs, written on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Frank Peiffer, regarding Consolidated Rail Corporation's proposed abandonment exemption in Lancaster and Chester Counties, PA. In your letter, you request an update on this proceeding. Because this matter currently is being handled by my office, Mr. King forwarded your letter to me for response.

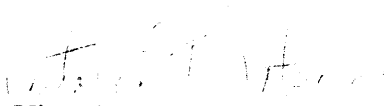
The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is in the final stages of its review of the proposed abandonment of the Enola Branch rail line, required pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. There are three phases under Section 106, and SEA is in the process of completing the final phase, known as the Mitigation Phase. During the Mitigation Phase, the agency determines what conditions, if any, should be imposed to avoid, minimize or mitigate the adverse effects that its decision may have on historic properties. These conditions are then set out in a memorandum of agreement (MOA).

As you know, on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2003, SEA held two public meetings in Quarryville, PA, to receive written and oral comments from the public regarding the draft MOA that our agency prepared in consultation with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and Norfolk Southern Railway Company. As was apparent at the meetings, there remains considerable public interest in the proposed abandonment of the Enola Branch, particularly converting the rail right-of-way to a trail. SEA has received approximately 120 oral and written comments, and we are in the process of responding to

all comments received and formulating a Final MOA. We are working to complete the Section 106 process as expeditiously as possible and plan to issue the Final MOA for signature shortly. When the Final MOA is signed, the Section 106 process will be complete. At that point, the Board may authorize abandonment of the line.

We appreciate your interest in this proceeding. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call me or Ms. Christa Dean of my staff at (202) 565-1606.

Sincerely,



Victoria Rutson

Chief

Section of Environmental Analysis

JOSEPH R. PITTS  
16TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEES:  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN WHIP

Web Page:  
[www.house.gov/pitts](http://www.house.gov/pitts)

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3816

January 26, 2004

GABE NEVILLE—WASHINGTON CHIEF OF STAFF  
TOM TILLET—DISTRICT CHIEF OF STAFF

204 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2411

LANCASTER CO. COURTHOUSE  
50 NORTH DUKE STREET  
LANCASTER, PA 17602  
(717) 393-0667

POST OFFICE BOX 837  
UNIONVILLE, PA 19375  
(610) 429-1540

BERKS COUNTY SERVICES CENTER  
633 COURT STREET, 14TH FLOOR  
READING, PA 19601  
(610) 374-3637

Mr. Dan King  
Director-Office of Congressional Affairs  
Surface Transportation Board  
The Mercury Building, 1925 K Street NW  
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Mr. King:

RE: AB-167 (Sub-No. 1095X) – Consolidated Rail Corporation – Abandonment Exemption – Lancaster and Chester Counties, Pennsylvania.

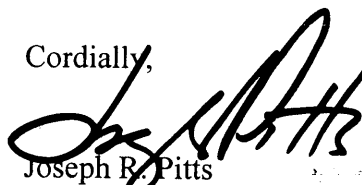
I am writing to you on behalf of my constituent, Mr. Frank Peiffer, who has enlisted my assistance.

It is my understanding that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) this past fall had public hearings in southern Lancaster County regarding this matter. I would like to respectfully request that your office provide me with an update on this situation in my district. Accordingly, I would like to take this opportunity to express my interest on behalf of my constituent and to request that this matter be reviewed as expeditiously as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation in this regard. If additional information is needed, please contact my aide, Tom Tillett, at 717-393-0667. I will look forward to hearing from you at your earliest opportunity. Please respond to my Lancaster office:

Lancaster County Courthouse  
50 North Duke Street  
Lancaster, PA 17602

Cordially,

  
Joseph R. Pitts  
Member of Congress

JRP/tt

RECEIVED  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION  
BOARD  
2004 FEB - 2 A 10:30  
OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN  
NOBER